

Insanity -1934

Crowded Insane Hospitals *Post* Grave Problem To State 8-20-34

Superintendent Partlow Declares More Room Must Be
Birmingham, Ala.
Provided For Those On Waiting Lists; Close
Economy Fails To Bring Needed Funds

By Luther Hearn
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TUSCALOOSA, Aug. 20.—With 233 persons on the waiting list for admission to Alabama hospitals for the insane, Dr. W. D. Partlow, general superintendent of the institutions, is preparing to ask the board of trustees for funds with which to expand facilities.

"Overcrowded conditions at Bryce hospital, Partlow Institute for Mental Defectives, and their Bryce hospital here, there are Searcy Asylum for Negroes, about 600 inmates of the school for Mount Vernon, make it impossible mental defectives, also located here, for us to admit patients fast enough and nearly 2,000 inmates of the to eliminate a gradually growing Searcy Asylum for Negroes, bringing waiting list," Dr. Partlow said. the total population of these institutions to about 5,500.

Dr. Partlow said that a request for increased appropriations will be included in the annual report to the board of trustees, room must be made for them when Sept. 30, the end of the fiscal year, ever their condition demands they be readmitted.

Effects Economies

Veteran In Service

"With 2,991 patients present in Bryce hospital, and 275 out on six months furlough, we must find and friend to his patients. He has some means of providing more room served them for 33 years, the last or our service to the state will be 15 years as superintendent. He is seriously impaired," he said. "The a native of St. Clair county. only way we can admit those now His only recreation and hobby is remaining on the waiting list is by fox hunting. replacing vacancies developed by Through application of available discharged patients." funds derived from inmates' earnings

By feeding inmates with foodings, two new buildings are now raised on the institutions' farms, nearing completion. One is a nurses' Dr. Partlow has been able to save home which will make room for 75 enough out of maintenance appro-women in the space vacated when priations to provide several new the nurses move into their new buildings, but reduction in the per home. The other is located on the capita appropriation by the last boys' colony across the Warrior legislature has caused the load to river which will house about 100 boys outgrow completely the capacity of from the Partlow Homie for the the buildings. Feeble Minded. One building just

The aggregate per capita appro-recently completed provided room priation for inmates of Bryce hos-for 76 during the past month. This pital and the Partlow Institute for will relieve the women's waiting list Mental Defectives, located here, and for the Searcy Hospital for There is no scarcity of land on Negroes, at Mount Vernon, near which buildings can be built. Mobile, is \$3 per week. Until the Colonies and institutions located last session of the legislature it was here have an area of 5,551 acres. \$3.50. Mt. Vernon, 28 miles north of Mobile, where the Searcy hospital for negroes is located occupies 2,100

Total Population 5,500

The per capita appropriation of \$156 a year is the sole source of revenue of the institutions, except what the inmates produce and what is received from 75 paying patients at Bryce hospital and five paying inmates at Searcy hospital.

The total received from paying patients last year was \$28,000.

In addition to the 2,991 patients